

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/814,882

Examiner

Kiran B. Patel

Applicant(s)

MULVIHILL ET AL.

Art Unit

3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/06/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5-17 and 20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17:2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Examiner's Amendment and
Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
Allowance (10/19/05)

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. MacMillan.

2. The claims were amended to read as follows:

1. A storage assembly for a vehicle cargo area comprising:
a storage panel; and
a flange portion extending from said storage panel, said flange portion being fixed in position relative to said storage panel,
wherein said flange portion is adapted to be mounted to an interior component of a vehicle such that said storage panel and said flange portion are positionable to a stowed position in which said storage panel is generally parallel to

a load surface of the vehicle cargo area, and a deployed position for dividing at least a portion of the vehicle cargo area.

2. The storage assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said storage panel is pivotally mounted to said interior component of said vehicle.

3. The storage assembly according to Claim 1, wherein one of said flange portion and said interior component has one of a pin and an opening, and wherein the other of said flange portion and said interior component has the other of said pin and said opening to facilitate mounting said storage panel to said interior component.

4. (Cancelled).

5. The storage assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said storage panel extends across one of the length and the width of the vehicle cargo area to divide the vehicle cargo area.

6. The storage assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said flange portion includes a first opening and a second opening in communication with one another, said first opening defining a first pivot point and said second opening defining a second pivot point, said first opening and said second opening each adapted to receive a pin to facilitate pivotable movement of said storage panel between said stowed position and said deployed position.

7. The storage assembly according to Claim 6, wherein said interior component of said vehicle includes at least one spring loaded pin corresponding to each of said openings within said at least one flange portion.

8. The storage assembly according to Claim 6, wherein said storage panel is flexible such that said storage panel may be compressed to allow said opening in said flange portion to be positioned around at least one corresponding pin mounted within said vehicle.

9. The storage assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said flange portion comprises a pair of flanges, each of said pair of flanges on a respective end of said storage panel, and wherein said storage panel may be mounted to said vehicle by said pair of flanges.

10. The vehicle storage assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said storage panel is disposed within a recess within said load surface of said vehicle when said storage panel is in said stowed position.

11. The storage assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said storage panel rests on top of said load surface of said vehicle when said storage panel is in said stowed position.

12. The storage assembly according to Claim 11, wherein said storage panel is tapered such that an upper surface of said storage panel tapers to meet said load surface when said storage panel is in said stowed position.

13. The vehicle storage assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said storage panel is movable to a shelving position in which said storage panel is generally parallel to a generally horizontal load surface of said vehicle and spaced vertically apart from said load surface.

14. The vehicle storage assembly according to Claim 13, wherein said flange portion includes a three-point pivot shaped opening to facilitate the pivotable movement of said storage panel between said stowed position, said deployed position, and said shelving position.

15. The vehicle storage assembly according to Claim 13, wherein said flange portion includes a first opening and a second opening in communication with one another, and a third opening in communication with said second opening.

16. The vehicle storage assembly according to Claim 15, wherein said first opening and said third opening are spaced apart from one another by said second opening.

17. The vehicle storage assembly according to Claim 13, wherein said first opening defines a first pivot point, said second opening defines a second pivot

point, and said third opening defines a third pivot point, said first opening adapted to receive a pin to retain said storage panel in said stowed position, said second opening adapted to receive a pin to retain said storage panel in said deployed position, and said third opening adapted to receive a pin to retain said storage panel in said shelving position.

18 - 19. (Cancelled).

20. A combined cargo area and storage assembly comprising:

a cargo area including a wall and a floor; and

a storage panel including a flange portion that is supported on said wall of said cargo area, said flange portion being fixed in position relative to said storage panel, said storage panel being movable between stowed position, wherein said storage panel extends generally parallel to said floor of said vehicle cargo area, and a deployed position, wherein said storage panel extends from said floor of said cargo area so as to divide at least a portion of said cargo area.


3. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for the allowance of the claims in this case, is the inclusion of the limitation "a flange portion extending from said storage panel, said flange portion being fixed in position relative to said storage panel, wherein said flange portion is adapted to be mounted to an interior component of a vehicle such that said storage panel and said flange portion are positionable to a stowed position in

which said storage panel is generally parallel to a load surface of the vehicle cargo area, and a deployed position for dividing at least a portion of the vehicle cargo area" in the independent claim, in combination with the other recited limitations in claims supported by this application, which are not found in the prior art of record.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Primary Examiner Kiran B. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-6665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 to 5:00. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.


Kiran B. Patel, P. E.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3612
October 19, 2005